

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 RSR-01

NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 AID-20 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9032

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 9776

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: THE NEW GOVERNMENT-- PRELIMINARY COMMENTS

1. SUMMARY. THREE MAJOR CONCLUSIONS EMERGE FROM
PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT:
(A) POMPIDOU HAS PUT HIS PERSONAL STAMP ON THE NEW TEAM;
(B) NO CHANGES IN GOF FOREIGN OR DEFENSE POLICIES WERE SIGNALLED;
(C) NEW GOVERNMENT DOES NOT REFLECT PRESIDENT' S AND GOVERNMENT
COALITION' S COMMITMENT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF PUBLIC DESIRE FOR
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE, SO FREQUENTLY ACKNOWLEDGED DURING
THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.
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2. NEW LINEUP MARKS A WATERSHED IN THE HISTORY OF THE FIFTH REPUBLIC. FOR THE FIRST TIME NONE OF THE GAULLIST "BARONS" (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF OLIVIER GUICHARD WHO IS CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF POMPIDOU) FIGURE IN THE GOVERNMENT. THEY HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY MEN WHO ARE PRIMARILY LOYAL TO POMPIDOU, SUCH AS MICHEL JOBERT, OR WHO, LIKE GISCARD K'ESTAING, AS WILLING FOR MOTIVES OF THEIR OWN TO FOLLOW THE PRESIDENT'S LEAD. THIS FACTOR, AND PARTICULARLY DEBRE'S DEPARTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A SHARP MOVE AWAY FROM THE BASIC TENETS OF GAULLISM, SUCH AS NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND A CERTAIN HOSTILITY TOWARDS SUPERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT POMPIDOU HIMSELF IS COMMITTED TO THESE PRINCIPLES. BUT, WITH HIS NEW TEAM, POMPIDOU WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO REACT PRAGMATICALLY TO EVENTS THAN WAS THE CASE WHEN ORTHODOX GAULLIST VOICES WERE STRONGER IN THE GOVERNMENT. DEBRE, COUVE DE MURVILLE AND OTHERS STILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT FOLLOWING IN THE UDR AND POMPIDOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MOVE TOO FAST OR TOO FAR TOWARDS THE CENTER, ASSUMING HE WANTS TO.

3. THERE IS IN ANY CASE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE PRESIDENT PLANS ANY MAJOR DEPARTURE IN FOREIGN OR DEFENSE POLICIES. THIS WAS CLEARLY SIGNALLED BY HIS CHOICE OF MICHEL JOBERT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ROBERT GALLEY FOR DEFENSE. BOTH CAN BE EXPECTED TO SERVE AS FAITHFUL EXECUTORS OF, AND APOLOGISTS FOR, POMPIDOU'S POLICIES.

4. ALTHOUGH POMPIDOU REPORTEDLY OFFERED SEVERAL SECOND-LEVEL MINISTERIAL POSTS TO REFORMERS, INCLUDING JEAN LECANUET, AND WAS TURNED DOWN, THE MAKEUP OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT GIVES NO EVIDENCE WHATEVER OF ANY OPENING TO THE CENTER. THIS, PLUS THE FACT THAT THE UDR RESERVED ALL SIX NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE PRESIDENCIES FOR ITSELF AND ITS ALLIES, CAUSED RESENTMENT IN OPPOSITION CIRCLES. PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION SEE NO EVIDENCE, BEYOND CONTINUED VERBAL ASSURANCES, THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF DESIRE FOR CHANGE SOME 60 PER CENT OF THE ELECTORATE REGISTERED IN THE ELECTIONS. INDEED, APPOINTMENT OF SEVERAL "FAR-RIGHT" POLITICIANS SUCH AS JEAN ROYER TO IMPORTANT DOMESTIC MINISTRIES WILL APPEAR TO SOME AS CALLOUS DISREGARD OF ELECTION PROMISES. POMPIDOU, WE ARE TOLD, HOPES TO MOVE GRADUALLY TO BROADEN BASE OF HIS SUPPORT TO INCLUDE CENTRISTS AT SOME POINT BEFORE 1976 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

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5. ABSENCE OF SIGNIFICANT NEW FACES IN MINISTERIAL POSTS AND LACK OF COMPROMISE WITH OPPOSITION ON ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES HAS HEIGHTENED RESENTMENT IN OPPOSITION CIRCLES AND DISAPPOINTMENT AMONG INFLUENTIAL JOURNALISTS AND POLITICAL OBSERVIES IN PARIS (LA CLASSE POLITIQUE). THIS, PLAS LYCEE STUDENT AGITATION AND, TO A LESSER DEGREE, CONTINUING STRIKE AT RENAULT, HAVE CREATED ATMOSPHERE OF G
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